

Office of Mine Safety and Licensing

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3 QUARTERLY NEWS JULY-SEPTEMBER

OFFICE OF MINE SAFETY
AND LICENSING



OFFICE OF MINE
SAFETY AND LICENSING



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A Word From The Executive Director



Underground Winter Alert

As the winter months approach it is important that our industry reminds our miners of the inherent dangers that this time of year brings to Kentucky underground and surface miners. It is my hope that the following simple reminders may be helpful as you conduct safety meetings with the miners at your mine.

- In years past during the winter months mine fires and explosions have taken a heavy toll on the lives of miners throughout the nation. Due to the decreasing temperature and the fluctuating barometric pressure, the inherent dangers of coal dust and methane are increased dramatically. Coal dust dries out and methane migrates from abandoned and pillared areas, and from behind sealed areas into active areas of the mine. When methane is ignited, coal dust can become an unlimited source of fuel. Methane will explode from 5 percent to 15 percent. The mine roof is also affected during the winter months. When the mine is in the drying out process, the strata above the coal seam deteriorates causing adverse roof conditions to occur. The mine roof needs to be checked frequently by all miners and adverse roof conditions corrected in a prompt and safe manner.
- It's imperative that adequate ventilation be maintained throughout the mine in order to dilute and carry away methane concentrations. Loose coal and coal dust must be removed and all areas kept adequately rock dusted. Equipment water sprays must be maintained and working properly.
- It's extremely important that safety meetings are conducted with all miners at your mines. Express the importance to miners about staying focused on these crucial issues and the importance of utilizing safe work habits.

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR REMAINDER OF THE MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOHNNY GREENE**

A Word From The Executive Director (Continued)

Surface Winter Alert



During the winter months rain, freezing, thawing, mud, snow and ice are elements that have a direct effect on surface mining. Special attention needs to be given to highwalls, spoil areas and all other areas where men are required to work or travel.



- **Highwalls** — Rain, freezing, thawing, mud, snow and ice have an adverse effect on vertical and horizontal cracks on the face of highwalls. Water and moisture collect in these cracks increasing the potential for high-wall failure.
- **Spoil and Fill Areas** — Must be examined for cracks, bulges and soft spots. These areas become more dangerous especially after the material has been frozen and begins to thaw. Unstable dump sites become more common during the winter. If any cracks appear on the top surface of a dump site or on the front slope immediate action should be taken. Adding the weight of a truck or dozer could cause the slope to fail.
- **Mobile Equipment** — Potential hazards include slippery ladders and platforms. Equipment operators must ensure that these areas are free of mud, snow and ice. These conditions can be corrected during the pre-operational check. The majority of surface accidents occur from slips, trips, falls and back strains. The analysis statistics show that these types of accidents increase during the winter months.
- **Haulageways** — During the winter months haulageways can become extremely dangerous. In emergency situations drivers sometimes panic and jump from their vehicle. Many drivers have been fatally injured by being crushed under their own equipment. A driver has the best chance of survival when he keeps his seat belt on and stays inside the equipment. Drivers need to select the proper gear when traveling up or down grades. Snow and ice need to be removed from all haulageways and adequate berms properly maintained.
- **Foreman** — One of the duties of the foreman is to examine work areas and highwalls at the beginning of each shift for unsafe conditions. When an unsafe condition is found it must be corrected immediately.



There have been five coal mining fatalities in Kentucky to date— three underground and two surface. We must continue our relentless efforts to eliminate fatal and serious accidents at Kentucky's coal mines.

Serious Injuries July-September 2010



Sept. 14, 2010

Matthew C. McCormic

Riverview Coal, LLC

Madisonville District

Roof Fall

To view a full report please go to:
[HTTP://OMSL.KY.GOV/PAGES/KentuckyCoalMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx](http://OMSL.KY.GOV/PAGES/KentuckyCoalMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx)

**We are pleased to announce
that there have been no
fatalities to report for this
quarter.**

Make It A Point To Practice Safe Working Habits. It's Something We Can All Live With.



A word from the desk of Frank Reed



Accident Prevention

The best way to prevent an accident is to eliminate unsafe acts. Approximately 90 percent of all accidents are caused by unsafe acts. An unsafe act is doing something in an unsafe manner that could cause physical harm to yourself or others. The mine safety analyst division is continuing to observe the work habits of both surface and underground miners every day, correcting any unsafe acts they observe. They are constantly teaching, advising, and assisting the miners to work safely in areas where an injury or fatality could occur. Miners lives have been saved and accidents prevented in years past due to the dedication and relentless effort put forth by the mine safety analysts. The Office of Mine Safety and Licensing believes foremen also play a vital role in reducing accidents. They must ensure those miners under their jurisdiction have been properly task trained for each job assignment they perform. The foremen must also observe their work habits, and like the analysts, correct any unsafe acts he observes employees committing. Together we can make our miners in Kentucky the most productive and safest workers in the nation. Accidents are preventable, we simply fail to prevent them. Let's continue to protect the coal industry's number one resource...THE MINER.

Right:

Congratulations to Alliance Coal, Excel Mine No. 3 in Pike County. They have gone over 100 days accident free.



KMI Mine Safety Competition Results:

Mine Rescue

1st Place-
Black Mountain Resource,
Blue Team,
Benham, Ky

Mine Emergency Technician

1st Place-
Teco Coal Corporation,
Gray Team

Pre-Shift Contest

1st Place-
Chris Williams,
KY Coal Academy,
MCC Team

Bench BG-4

1st Place-
Massey Energy,
Southern W. Va Team

Bench Bio-pak 240R

1st Place-
Hopkins County Coal
Elk Creek Team

KMI Mine Safety Competition

On Sept. 8-10 the Kentucky Mining Institute, in conjunction with the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing conducted its annual mine safety contest in Lexington, Kentucky. The event was one of the largest in the history of the competition with 50 Mine rescue teams, 52 pre-shift examiners, 11 mine emergency technicians and 36 bench men. Kentucky hosted seven other coal producing states that were also participants in the mine safety competition. The event ended on Sept. 10 at the annual KMI banquet where EEC Cabinet Secretary Len Peters was the guest speaker and awards were presented to the contest winners.



New Employee

"The strength of the team is each individual member...the strength of each member is the team."

-Coach Phil Jackson,



Ross Thomasson

District: Madisonville

Hire Date: 9/16/2010

Mine Inspector I

Certificate of Excellence

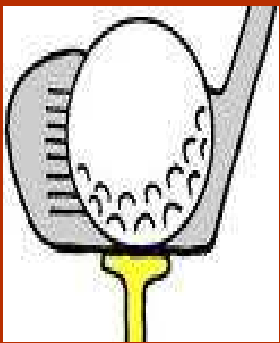
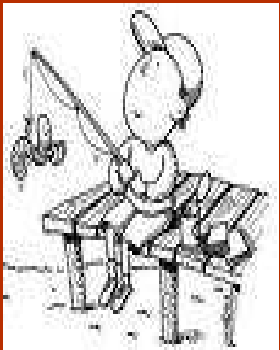
Bryant Rose (standing on the left) accepting an award for his heroism from Mike Elswick, Pikeville District office supervisor.



The Office of Mine Safety and Licensing commends Bryant Rose for a job well done at M-3 Energy Mining Co., Mine No. 1. On June 28, 2010, as he was performing a pre-shift examination on the 001 section, Rose detected 5 percent of methane in the # 6 face. Rose immediately knocked the power on the section and sent the remainder of his employees outside. He summoned help from other foremen, and together they corrected the unsafe working condition. Rose acted in a very responsible manner and put the safety of his co-workers first. By conducting a pre-shift examination and by using good sound judgment, he may have avoided what could have been a disastrous event. **Job well done Bryant Rose!**

"Don't act your age in retirement. Act like the inner young person you have always been."

~J.A. West



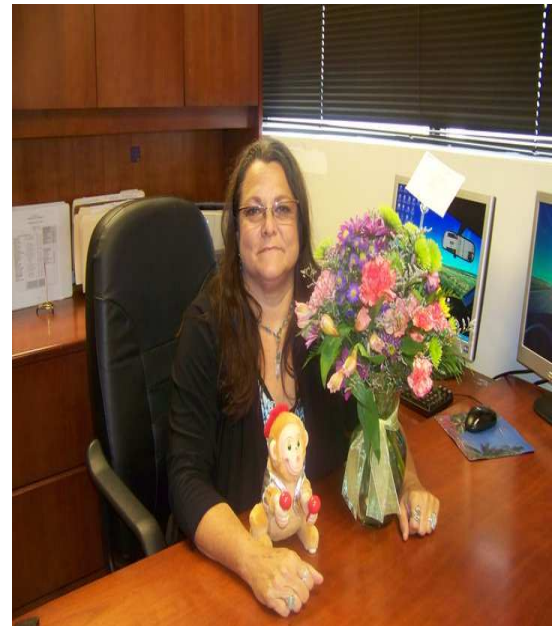
Retirements



Donald "Donnie" Ervin

Donnie Ervin began working for then Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals on Aug. 16, 1995, in the Madisonville District. Donnie had been a longtime safety committeeman for Peabody Coal's camp mines where he had worked for 20 years. Donnie put his extensive mining experience to good use as a mine safety analyst where he evaluated the work habits of miners and educated them in safe work habits. In 2003, Donnie transferred to a mine inspector I position and later an inspector II position where he was instrumental in training new inspectors. Donnie remained in that position until his retirement on Aug. 31 2010. Donnie was a safety professional who always had the safety of the coal miners he served at heart. He was a member of the District Mine Rescue Team and took part in several recoveries and investigations. Donnie could always be counted on to provide a common sense approach to any situation. Donnie is an avid hunter and since his retirement has been elk hunting in Colorado and is looking forward to hunting and fishing with his grandchildren. We miss his funny and colorful accounts about his family and friends and we wish him the best of luck and a great retirement.

On July 31, 2010, Gail Perry retired after 29 years of service in Kentucky state government. Gail began working for state government in August 1979 for the Legislative Research Commission. On Aug. 1, 2006, Gail came to the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing (OMSL) as a human resources specialist III. During her tenure with OMSL she became very well known not only within the Frankfort staff where she worked but also with the 174 agency employees working at various locations in the state. To many employees she became the voice on the phone who worked with them as they found answers to ethical questions, promotional opportunities and other personnel questions. During the four years Gail spent at the OMSL office in Frankfort, she gained friendships that extend beyond the office walls. The employees of the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing wish her the best as she enjoys kayaking, scuba diving, traveling, and all the other activities she has planned during her well deserved retirement.



Gail Perry

We're On The Web

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To view OMSL Disciplinary cases
Before the Kentucky Mine Safety
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OMSL.KY.GOV



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